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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR 2 September 1954

SUBJECT Vysocany Plant, Aero National Enterprise, Prague-NO. OF PAGES 2

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In September 1953, the Vysocany aircraft plant of Aero at Prague-Vysocany employed about 3,000 workers, 40 percent of whom were women. Work was done in 3 shifts. Fuselages of jet aircraft, possibly MIG-15s, were manufactured at the plant. The monthly output was estimated at 140 fuselages. In early September 1953, employees of the plant believed that the work force was to be reduced. This assumption was supported by the fact that some workers could terminate their work contract without difficulties although an intense recruiting campaign for the Czech aircraft industry had been conducted in 1953.

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2. The existing department of the aircraft plant employed a total of about 60 workers working 3 shifts. The foreman of the department was Jan Vlk. The department was equipped with 2 electric band saws for the cutting of steel, 1 circular saw for the cutting of Duralumin, about 7 vertical milling machines, and 5 small boring machines. Most of the material machined in the department was Duralumin. Sheet metal sections were also processed there, however. Of the larger fuselage sections, series of 140 units were generally produced.

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3. Other departments located at the plant included the hardening department, the sheet-metal department, the assembly shop, the sheet-metal cutting department, and the anodic treatment department. Work in the hardening department was done in 2 shifts with 8 to 10 workers assigned to each shift. The metal was hardened at a temperature of about 500° C in 2 baths filled with a liquid of undetermined composition. Work at the sheet-metal department was done in 3 shifts. At the assembly shop, the nose and rear sections of the fuselages were assembled with the help of about 12 erecting scaffolds. Work was done in 3 shifts at this department. Each workpiece was accompanied by a work sheet on its way through the different departments of the plant. On these work sheets it was stated that the Duralumin treated had a strength of 35 kg. per square mm.

4. The material-testing department of the plant was in a small factory on Na Cerné Straně opposite the aircraft plant proper. Work was done in 2

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shifts there although formerly only one shift was employed. The tensile strength of individual sections of fuselages and also of entire fuselages was tested at this department. It appeared that the department also worked for other aircraft plants. This was inferred from the fact that wings of small aircraft which definitely had not been manufactured at the Vycosany Plant of Aero were once seen there.

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